

Serial No.: 09/778,661
Art Unit: 2872

REMARKS

Applicants wish to place on record their gratitude to the Examiner for indicating in his final Office action dated April 6, 2004 that *"claims 47 and 57 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."*

Applicants further wish to thank Examiner Amari for the telephone conversation he had with Applicants' representative P. S. Dara on August 2, 2004, wherein a request was made for allowance of claims that were objected to, but had been indicated as allowable, in the final Office action dated April 6, 2004. Examiner Amari agreed to positively consider further claim amendments incorporating the subject matter of claims 47 and 57 that had been indicated as allowable earlier. Consequently, Applicants are hereby submitting independent claims 42 and 50 that incorporate the subject matter of claims 47 and 57. As independent claims 42 and 50 are allowable, claims 48, 49, 55, and 56 that appropriately depend on these independent claims are also allowable.

Applicants have carried out the claim amendments with reference to Applicants' "Amendment and response," dated January 7, 2004, which was received and entered by the USPTO on January 9, 2004.

Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 42, 48-50, 55, and 56 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 42 and 50 have been currently amended to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 48, 49, 55, and 56 have been previously presented. Claims 43-47, 51-54, and 57-61 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that claims 42, 48-50, 55, and 56 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on

August 11, 2004
Evelyn Sanders
Signature